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NOTES AND LITERATURE.

ZOÖLOGY.

North American Deer. — *The Deer Family*,¹ by Theodore Roosevelt and others, is a popular account of the deer found in North America, written by men eminently fitted by experience and personal knowledge to deal with the subject from the double viewpoint of the naturalist and sportsman. The first half of the book is by Mr. Roosevelt, who furnishes the introductory chapter (pp. 1-27), and treats of the mule deer, or Rocky Mountain blacktail (pp. 28-64), the whitetail deer (pp. 65-97), the pronghorn antelope (pp. 98-130), and the wapiti, or round-horned elk (pp. 131-164); Mr. Van Dyke writes of the deer and elk of the Pacific coast (pp. 167-191), Mr. Elliot of the caribou (pp. 257-287), and Mr. Stone of the moose (pp. 288-325). Mr. Roosevelt, through his many years of ranch life on the Little Missouri and his numerous protracted hunting trips in the great game regions of the West, writes not only from abundant opportunity for observing the habits of the animals, but with the sympathy and intelligence of a keen naturalist as well as an ardent sportsman.

In the introductory chapter reference is made to the misapplication of names "by all peoples of European descent who have gone into strange lands," not only in reference to some of our deer and pronghorn, but to other game animals and birds. The deer of North America are grossly classified as forming six kinds: "The moose, caribou, wapiti, whitetail, and the two blacktails," minor differences being very properly disregarded. Their geographical ranges and leading characteristics are briefly stated, with some comment on the equipment required by the hunter of large game.

There is reference also to "the most striking and melancholy feature in connection with American big game, — the rapidity with

¹ Roosevelt, Theodore; Van Dyke, T. S.; Elliot, D. G.; and Stone, A. J. *The Deer Family*. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1902. 8vo, ix + 334 pp., 10 illustrations by Rungius, 7 maps by C. Hart Merriam, and numerous half-tone cuts of antlers of moose and caribou. American Sportsman's Library Series, edited by Caspar Whitney.

which it has vanished"; and, says Mr. Roosevelt, "if we are a sensible people, we will make it our business to see that the process of extinction is arrested. At the present moment the great herds of caribou are being butchered as in the past the great herds of bison and wapiti have been butchered. Every believer in manliness, and therefore manly sport, and every lover of nature, every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the far-sighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game birds, and game fish—indeed, all the living creatures of prairie, and woodland, and seashore—from wanton destruction. . . . But this end can only be achieved by wise laws and by resolute enforcement of the laws."

The work is thoroughly non-technical in character, even to the omission of the scientific names of the species throughout most of the chapters, yet it loses nothing in scientific interest or value thereby. As a contribution to the natural history of the big game of North America its importance cannot easily be overestimated, there being here brought together more first-hand knowledge of the life histories of the species treated than has ever before been placed on record. Mr. Rungius's illustrations are effective and appropriate, while the numerous half-tone cuts of heads and antlers of moose and caribou are important and interesting features. The seven maps, by Dr. Merriam, showing the ranges of the deer, elk, and pronghorn in the year 1900, have a melancholy interest and great permanent value. That showing the present range of the elk is a sad commentary on the wasteful destruction of big game in North America. A hundred years ago this animal ranged from near the Atlantic seaboard westward to the Pacific coast, and from southern Canada into Mexico, forming, in some sections of the country, bands of thousands. Now its range is restricted to a narrow strip of country in the main Rocky Mountains, from Alberta to the northern border of New Mexico, with a few isolated areas of very small extent in California, Oregon, Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

The Deer Family is thus not only a book of special interest for the sportsman and the general reader, but an invaluable contribution to the natural history of the deer tribe in North America. It should also stimulate interest in the protection by all rational means of the waning remnants of the former great herds of these noble and attractive creatures.

J. A. A.